

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19 EB-11

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3699

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF HEIGHTENED GDR CONTROLS ON TRANSIT ROUTES

REF: A) BERLIN 1200 B) BERLIN 1234; C) MEMCON OF JULY 19,
1974, COMMANDANTS MEETING WITH BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR

1. ALTHOUGH THREATENED GDR COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT IN WEST BERLIN OF FEA MAY IN FACT NOT MATERIALIZE AS SUCH (REFTEL B), MISSION WOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF GDR ULTIMATELY INSTITUTING MORE STRINGENT CHECKS ON TRANSIT TRAFFIC, INDIVIDUALS AND GOODS. RECENT STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT OF FEA SEEM TO IMPLY THAT GDR AND SOVIETS WISH AVOID CONFRONTATION ON ISSUE BUT SUDDEN SPURT OF REPORTED CASES OF EXFILTRATION AND PUBLICIZED SENTENCING OF LARGE NUMBER OF ALLEGED CULPRITS SUGGEST POSSIBILITY OF MORE STRINGENT CHECKS ON ACCESS ROUTES ON CHARGE OF AUTOBAHN MISUSE BY CERTAIN WEST GERMAN AND WEST BERLIN TRAVELLERS.

2. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, JULY 24, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTINUED RECENT PRACTICE OF PRINTING DAILY REPORTS ON SENTENCING IN GDR OF WOULD-CONFIDENTIAL

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BE EXFILTRATORS: NUMBER OF EXFILTRATORS WHOSE FATE HAS BEEN

ANNOUNCED SINCE JULY 11 BY EAST GERMAN MEDIA NOW NUMBERS 23.
INDEED, BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ EXPRESSED CONCERN JULY
19 THAT EXFILTRATION STORIES MIGHT ULTIMATELY PROVIDE PRETEXT
FOR SOME ACTION.

3. CURRENT EAST GERMAN CAMPAIGN WOULD APPEAR HAVE OBJECTIVE
OTHER THAN STAUNCHING OUTFLOW OF POSSIBLE DEFECTORS. WHILE EX-
FILTRATION UNDOUBTEDLY REMAINS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR EAST GERMANS,
FACT IS THAT EXFILTRATION ACTIVITIES SEEM TO HAVE DECLINED.
ACCORDING RELIABLE WEST BERLIN SOURCES, 78 WEST GERMANS AND WEST
BERLINERS ARRESTED BY GDR AUTHORITIES ON TRANSIT ROUTES SO FAR THIS
YEAR, DOWN FROM 127 IN SAME PERIOD OF 1973. KLEIN

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